

1939, the Mayport area was selected for the new base.

Lt. Commander Maynard R. Sanders assumed command of the new U.S. Navy Base in October 1940. Construction began immediately and Building 1, the Administration Building, was opened on Nov. 4, 1941. Although the plans for Mayport being a carrier base were put on hold, the base became a vital crash and patrol boat training facility.

When the war began in earnest, the Atlantic Fleet was dispersed leaving the shipping lanes along the East Coast vulnerable to attack from German submarines. The Porgy Patrol, named after the foul-smelling porgy fertilizer processing plant in the Village of Mayport, went on constant patrol hoping to spot submarines and reporting those findings to the radio tower so aircraft could be launched. Then, on April 10, 1942, with citizens watching from the shore in Ponte Vedra, the S.S. Gulf of America was sunk by the German U-boat U-123. Once again, the civilian population stepped up and the Porgy Patrols expanded to include shrimp boats, trawlers and yachts, which were converted by the Gibbs Shipyard, now BAE Systems.

The marine side of the base with its protected harbor was commissioned as Naval Station Mayport in December 1942. On April, 1944, Mayport's air facility, the Admiral David L. McDonald Field, was commissioned as Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS). After the war, both the marine base and the airfield were decommissioned. The United States Coast took over the base and operated small boat camps until 1947. Because its location is so pivotal, less than a year later Naval Station Mayport was reactivated, and within three years, its land area was expanded and its runway extended. Several name changes occurred over the years and during the Cold War, Mayport became the East Coast home for the Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) squadrons and in 1988 the base was re-designated as a naval air station.

Naval Station Mayport began teeming with life once again. Investments continued and growth in land area, activities and command importance enhanced its value. As Mayport expanded, it began to accommodate more ships and sailors with their families. Its role was crucial during the Cuban Missile Crisis, providing logistical support as well as an advanced staging area for the Second Marine Division. The base has also received visits from Presidents Nixon and Reagan.

The first carrier to be stationed at Mayport was the USS *Tarawa* (CVS-40) and the last carrier to call Mayport home was the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) was decommissioned on March 23, 2007. The Navy continues to entertain the idea of Mayport as a second carrier site on the East Coast but funding is not available.

Today, Naval Station Mayport has undergone major developments in technology, services and infrastructure, making it well positioned to act at a moment's notice. The station's protected harbor can accommodate 34 ships and its runway is capable of handling most aircraft in the military's inventory. It is host to the Navy's United States Fourth Fleet, and is home to the USS *Iwo Jima*, the USS *New York* and the USS *Fort McHenry*. On November 7, 2014, Naval Station Mayport became the East Coast home port for the Navy's newest ships, the littoral combat ships.

Mayport has become an asset not just to Northeast Florida, but to country.

I salute the 75th Anniversary of Naval Station Mayport, which continues to be a major employer and economic stimulator. More importantly, its personnel continue to contribute through their hard work and dedication to the important missions of our nation's defense. Naval Station Mayport has a long history of supporting both the local community and the country and will continue to do so for years to come. I rise today to congratulate them on 75 successful years and hope Mayport sailors continue to keep their home anchors in Northeast Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 607; YEA on Roll Call No. 608; and YEA on Roll Call No. 609.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX THOMSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Thomsen of Underwood High School for winning the Class 1A, 126 pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament earlier this year.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning two state championships in a row is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Alex, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Alex demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alex on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on this day because I was attending the memorial service for the 3rd Special Forces Group soldiers who were recently killed in action while serving in Niger.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 610, 611; nay on Roll Call No. 612, 613; yea on Roll Call No. 614, and 615.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL OREFFICE,
FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD OF THE DOW CHEMICAL
COMPANY

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Orefice, the former Chairman of the Board of The Dow Chemical Company, upon his 90th birthday.

Paul was born in Venice, Italy and came to the United States with his family when he was 17 years old. He went on to attend Purdue University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering in 1949. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, Paul began his career at Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan.

Following international assignments in Switzerland, Italy, Brazil and Spain, Paul became the first president of Dow Chemical Latin America in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1970. In 1971, he was elected as a member of the Board of Directors, and later as president of Dow Chemical U.S.A. in August 1975. Paul was named president and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company in May 1978 and chairman in May 1986.

As a humanitarian, Paul received the Encomienda del Merito Civil (Order of Civil Merit) in 1966 from the government of Spain and in 1978 he was honored with the title "Grand Ufficiale" by the Italian government. Paul is the first person to receive both the Société de Chimie Industrielle's Palladium medal and SCI America's Chemical Industry medal, which he received in 1981 and 1983, respectively.

Paul has been especially helpful in giving back to Michigan's Fourth Congressional District through his intentional engagement of the community. His involvement in bringing the Midland Soccer Club and the Greater Midland Tennis Center to life has not only provided opportunities for the local youth to come together to be active within the community, but also brings tourism to the area through tournaments and other events. Paul's involvement in philanthropy touches not only the Midland community, but reaches across the country as he is a Trustee of the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, served as a Senior Member of the MD Anderson Cancer Center Visitors Board, and he served as Chairman of the Board of the Parkinson's Foundation from 2003 to 2007. His strategic thinking and continued contributions have greatly impacted families across the district and the country.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Paul Orefice for his lifetime of work in chemical engineering and for his commitment to the Midland Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following votes because I

was in my congressional district tending to urgent business. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

YEA on Roll Call No. 605; NAY on Roll Call No. 606; YEA on Roll Call No. 607; YEA on Roll Call No. 608; YEA on Roll Call No. 609; NAY on Roll Call No. 610; NAY on Roll Call No. 611; and NAY on Roll Call No. 612.

**HONORING PETE CIARROCCHI AND
CHICKIE'S AND PETE'S CRAB
HOUSE AND SPORTS BAR**

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Pete Ciarrocchi, Chairman and CEO of the world famous Chickie's & Pete's Crab House and Sports Bar. Since 1977, Chickie's & Pete's locations have been rightfully called the best sports bars in Philadelphia. So none of us were surprised when they were voted ESPN's No. 1 Sports Bar on the East Coast.

Every Philadelphian knows that Chickie's & Pete's and Philly sports go hand in hand. The only thing better than pre-game, post-game or game watching at the restaurant is enjoying their food at the stadium. And of course, you can't leave without an order of Pete's world famous Crabbies®.

But Mr. Speaker, Pete Ciarrocchi is more than a successful businessman. He's one of Philadelphia's finest citizens. He is one of the owners of the three time Arena Bowl champion Philadelphia Soul Arena Football Team. He is also one of our leading philanthropists serving on the Aria Health Foundation Board of Trustees and on the Holy Family University Business Advisory Board. Pete is a Mummer, who is active with The Polish-American String Band.

But most importantly, Pete is a proud husband and father. His lovely wife Lisa and three sons Peter, Blaise, and Anthony are his first loves and the foundation on which the rest of his world is built.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in honoring Pete Ciarrocchi and Chickie's & Pete's Crab House and Sports Bar as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary tonight.

**TRIBUTE TO MARY SCONIERS-
CHAPMAN**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mary Sconiers-Chapman, community leader and retired higher education administrator, for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

For 18 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to iden-

tify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

After receiving a degree in elementary education from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Mary began a long successful career educating our future generations. She immediately began teaching after graduation and worked her way up to principal in the Des Moines Public School system. As her passion for education continued to grow, Mary decided that working in higher education was next and became executive dean of Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), ultimately retiring in 2013 as the vice president of strategic partnerships after 23 years with the school. While Mary is a dedicated educator, she is also passionate about service to her community. She was instrumental in the creation of the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families that focuses on assisting individuals and families in finding jobs, educational opportunities, and job training.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent community leaders like Mary in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community, and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Mary nothing but the best.

**RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MR. RICHARD VOUTOUR**

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the service of Mr. Richard Voutour. Rick is a United States Marine Corps veteran, and he has served for over a decade as a friend and advocate of the veterans of Massachusetts as a distinguished Veterans' Service Officer.

Rick was born on January 7, 1963, in Webster, Massachusetts. He entered the Marine Corps at age 18 and completed training at Parris Island, South Carolina and Camp Pendleton, California.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rick has consistently received recognition for his exemplary service to our nation, including: the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one star, the Navy Unit Commendation, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Mr. Speaker, this alone would be an impressive list of achievements that deserves our respect and gratitude. But after 23 years of service in the Marine Corps, in places as far away as Djibouti, Valetta, and Amman, Rick decided to return home to Massachusetts and serve his nation in a new way as the Director of Veteran Services for Leominster, Massachusetts.

In his 13 years as a Veterans Service Officer, Rick has helped countless veterans and

their families throughout Central Massachusetts obtain the benefits and services that they deserve. From obtaining military record and medals—to assisting with medical care and benefits, every veteran that walks into Rick's office is treated with the dignity and respect he or she deserves. There are thousands of veterans in Massachusetts right now whose lives have been changed for the better by Rick. His dedication to improving the lives of veterans serves as an inspiration to me and an example for our community.

But don't just take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. Many others have seen Rick's steadfast advocacy for veterans and his dogged determination to assist those who have sacrificed so much to proudly serve this country. Just this year, Rick was named Veterans Service Officer of the Year by Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services, Francisco Ureña.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and of the people of Massachusetts, I would like to thank and recognize Mr. Richard Voutour for his service to our country, and for his work every day to improve the lives of veterans in Massachusetts.

**CONGRATULATING CHRISTIAN D.
SEARCY AND STEVEN L. DANIELS**

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christian D. Searcy and Steven L. Daniels for receiving the 2017 Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Palm Beach Jurisprudence Award. This award acknowledges those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the legal profession as well as the community in which they live. I have had the honor of knowing both these gentleman for many years and commend their worthy recognition.

Christian D. Searcy is President and CEO of Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. For 43 years, he has litigated cases primarily involving catastrophic injury and death in venues throughout Florida, as well as other states. He has been honored numerous times for his exceptional advocacy and extraordinary contributions to the cause of justice. He is well known for his generous contributions to many non-profit organizations committed to helping the disabled, improving education, and advancing community causes.

Steven Daniels has played a significant role in the South Florida Jewish community since the 1980s. He has been an integral member of the local and national ADL leadership. Steven has also served as President of Temple Beth El in West Palm Beach as well as the Jewish Community Center of the Palm Beaches. He has earned the "Super Lawyer" distinction from Florida Trend magazine, and is currently the managing partner for the West Palm Beach and Boca Raton offices of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr.

Christian Searcy and Steven Daniels share the distinction of excellence in their profession and the advancement of fairness and justice in the community, the founding principles of the ADL.

I congratulate and thank them both.